

✓ Serial No.: 10/016,161
Amdt. Dated Dec. 4, 2003.
Reply to Office action of Sept. 9, 2003.

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Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

25. (Currently amended) A method for preparing at least one hydroxy-terminated oligomer of a polyether polymer which comprises:

preparing a copolymer of a first polymer which is a polyethersulfone, polyetherketone, or polyetherimide and a second condensation polymer characterized by structural units containing an oxycarbonyl group, by contacting, under reactive conditions, at least one salt of a dihydroxyaromatic compound with at least one substituted aromatic compound of the formula



wherein Z is an activating radical, A¹ is an aromatic radical and X¹ is fluoro, chloro, bromo or nitro, in the presence of said second polymer; and

contacting said copolymer with aqueous alkali under reactive conditions, thus hydrolyzing ~~carboxate and ester units~~ the oxycarbonyl group.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the dihydroxyaromatic compound salt is a sodium or potassium salt.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the second polymer is a polyester.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the second polymer is a polycarbonate.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 28 wherein the polycarbonate is a bisphenol A polycarbonate.

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30. (Original) The method according to claim 29 wherein the substituted aromatic compound is a bis(haloaryl) sulfone.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein a water-immiscible aromatic compound is present as solvent.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31 wherein the solvent is o-dichlorobenzene or anisole or a mixture thereof.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 31 wherein a phase transfer catalyst is also present.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the phase transfer catalyst is a hexaalkylguanidinium halide.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the contact temperature in the copolymer preparation step is in the range of about 125-250°C.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing at least one hydroxy-terminated oligomer of a polyethersulfone which comprises:

preparing a copolymer of a polyethersulfone and a polycarbonate by contacting, under reactive conditions, at least one alkali metal salt of bisphenol A with bis(4-chlorophenyl) sulfone in the presence of said polycarbonate in solution in o-dichlorobenzene or anisole, further in the presence of about 1-10 mole percent, based on said bis(4-chlorophenyl) sulfone, of a hexaalkylguanidinium halide as phase transfer catalyst and at a temperature in the range of about 125-250°C to afford a copolymer comprising carbonate units; and

contacting said copolymer with aqueous sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide under reactive conditions, thus hydrolyzing carbonate units.